

**Commissioners Present:** Joseph M Prior Chairman, Paul C. DeMaio Vice Chairman, Clerk Marshall L. Harris

**Employees Present:** Superintendent: Craig W. Jalbert; Secretary: Dale Barnes-Johnson

**Open the Meeting:** The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Accept the Meeting Minutes:** Marty made a motion to accept the minutes of October 7, October 21, and November 4, 2020 Open and Executive Sessions. Paul seconded and it was unanimously voted.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

**Palmer Road Well Rehab** ~ Barbato was delayed in returning due to part backorders. They finally received everything and came on Monday November 30, unfortunately, they could not complete the work as the flange that Maher installed as part of well head tee was not quite right. Flange pipe connections use bolts and a gasket. The bolt holes in the flanges must line up perfectly to mate up. The flange on the well head tee needs to rotate another 15 degrees to line up with the existing piping at the station. Maher uses an epoxy like thread sealant on their flange and once it is set it will not move. Maher will have to remove their flange and install another one. During this delay we have been prepping for the well start up. The minor plumbing modifications are almost complete, and the chlorinator has been cleaned.

**Energy Audit** ~ Craig participated in the UMass Energy Audit and it looks like we may be able to save significant money on our energy costs and prolong the lives of our well pumps. Based on the information from the UMass audit Craig contacted National Grid who in turn connected Craig with Mark Buzzel of Siemens who is overseeing the Monson School's energy project. Some additional testing will be required but we may be eligible to have a new VFD installed at the Palmer Road Station at little or no cost to us. We have tentatively scheduled the additional testing for after January 1.

**Special Town Meeting Articles** ~ All three articles passed at the November 16 meeting.

- \$91,912.25 from Water Enterprise Free Cash to pay for repair costs and expenses incurred relative to the July 29, 2020 Bethany Brook Crossing water main break.
- \$85,000 from Water System Emergencies and Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund (MTBE for cleaning/rehabilitation and submersible pump and motor conversion at the Palmer Road Well.
- \$109,781.36 from Sewer Enterprise Free Cash to cover FY2020 prior year bill.

**Stipend** ~ Paul made a motion to award Craig with a \$5,000 bonus from the Salaries account for the extra work he has been providing and will unfortunately be required to continue, on weekends and afterhours under these short-staffed circumstances. Marty seconded; motion passed unanimously.

#### **Department Activity**

- ~ Sanitary Survey was completed Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- ~ Routine Lead & Copper sample results at schools were good.
- ~ Easement mowing is 80% complete.
- ~ The Enterprise Accountant has provided some preliminary findings.
- ~ The Finance Director has requested policies from the Water & Sewer Department.
- ~ Manhole at 356 Main Street was reset by Highway Dept. as previously discussed to preserve our infrastructure and to avoid getting damaged by a plow.
- ~ Washington Street/Cushman Field beaver dam required the hiring of a trapper by the name of Arthur Pellegrini for beaver removal.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting was not scheduled at this time.

**ADJOURN:** At 4:10 p.m. a motion was made by Marty to adjourn from open session to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A Section 21 (3), not to return to open session. Paul seconded; motion passed unanimously.

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Marshall L. Harris, Clerk

cc: Selectmen